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False power

There is something in the concept and practice of perceived power that cultivates stupidity. This is obvious today in Israeli policies in the occupied West Bank, where more repressive and authoritarian police tactics breed more vigorous Arab reactions, which leads to new arrests and fines of Arab citizens, and this in turn leads to a higher pitch of protest and resistance.

The key to understanding the situation on the West Bank is the nature of Israeli power there. The Israelis are holding and ruling the West Bank in their capacity as an occupying military power. They exercise rule through a series of military governors, and they don't hesitate to quell Arab demonstrations by bringing in the army or units of their border police.

The Israelis know very well that their hold on the West Bank is only as sturdy as the nozzles of the machineguns that maintain that rule. While they dream about giving the Arab population autonomous rule in the hope of keeping the population under their control, and thus keeping their hold on the land, the Israelis pursue policies whose result is invariably to alienate the Arab population. The result would be the same if the Israelis went around the West Bank handing out candy and ice cream. Their incompatibility with the Arab population does not stem so much from their policies, but from their mere presence. They will be despised and defied whatever they try to do, because their continued presence in the area is the starkest truth of Israeli aims in the Middle East — to grab and hold Arab land, expel Arab populations, and build up an edifice of Zionism that is basically incompatible with the indigenous population of the Middle East.

The Israelis think they are powerful because they can do whatever they wish on the West Bank and face no more dangerous reprisals from the native Arab population than thrown stones, demonstrations, strikes and passive resistance. The Israelis view their military occupation as a sign of their power, while in fact their machinegun-toting presence on the West Bank is a sign of their fundamental weakness in the area. The strong man is he who picks up a stone and throws it at the armed soldier.

The Israeli military authorities will continue to send their troops into schoolhouses to beat little Arab girls, because they think this is the way to pacify the area and secure their Zionist presence. This, basically, is a sign of stupidity bred by the mirage of power. It may also be another facet of the settler state's inexorable march towards self-destruction.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

In its comment Sunday, Al Dustour says that in the tug of war drama around the Aqsa Mosque, a group of young Jews were denied access to the Mosque for prayer by Israeli police. But this was not the end of it, judging by the pledge of the group leader that the attempt will be repeated, and by the sympathy towards the movement expressed by various fanatic Israeli sectors. And behind all this is the Israeli court verdict, which gave such encroachments a legal aspect, the paper said.

The paper recalls the tragedy of the Ibrahim Mosque in Hebron, despite the tactical retraction by the Israeli administration, whose plans finally linked with those of the Israeli fanatics. The paper urges the Arabs and Muslims to perceive the actual size of the danger through the comprehensive Israeli plan rather than through the spontaneous and periodical moves by the Israelis to absorb Arab wrath in the occupied areas and to 'anesthetize' the world opinion which is showing greater interest in this human issue.

In another comment, Al Dustour said the Arab countries should carefully plan for Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky's expected visit during the second half of this month, as he should be accorded a grand reception in recognition of his courageous stand.

"We all remember how Kreisky closed down the gathering centre of the Soviet Jewish emigrants near Vienna, and how he did not yield to the tremendous Jewish pressure at the 'Socialist International Conference.' The paper went on, 'when Kreisky understands

that his attitude is appreciated by the Arabs, he will be encouraged to follow the independent line which will serve Austria's interest in the first place, and will open the eyes on the reality of Zionism as a fanatic, petrified and racist movement..."

Al Rai's editorial discussed the Jordanian emigres in Australia, who expressed to H. M. King Hussein their loyalty and their love for their mother-country. "Although we don't have exact numbers of the Jordanian emigres there, yet we feel that we are called to establish a sort of special relation with the Jordanians in Australia," the paper opined.

It said that Arab emigres throughout the world have proved to be non-racist groups, able to integrate in the life and interests of their new homeland. Arab emigres also proved to be capable of preserving their values and traditions despite the difficult circumstances which made them leave their own country.

The paper favours the setting up of cultural groups of Jordanians living in other countries, and says an official organisation should be established to sponsor meetings of representatives of these groups in the mother-country.

In another comment Al Rai discusses the sale of six United States transport planes to Egypt. The paper says that the feeling of the Israeli ambassador in the U.S. following the submission of his Government's objection to Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, was that the gravity of the deal lay not in its size, but in the fact that it marked the beginning of supplies which could increase in the future.

Jordan Valley federation to hold elections

AMMAN. — Elections of the Farmers Federation, which was recently established in the Jordan Valley to group and co-ordinate agricultural efforts, take place Tuesday for the first time in the history of Jordan.

3,400 farmers from the Valley will participate in these elections. For organisational purposes, the Jordan Valley has been divided into 33 development zones. Each zone includes nearly 180 farmers who elect their board of administration, entrusted with the management of the agricultural affairs of the zone.

The Farmers Federation, Jordan Valley Commission officials said, was established to create an atmosphere of solidarity between farmers, and enable them to increase their production through concerted efforts to increase their standard of living.

This Federation, sources added, could be considered as the cornerstone of agricultural development in the Kingdom.

3 ROC missions to visit Jordan

Three Republic of China economic and technical missions will be arriving in Amman this month to promote better relations in various fields with Jordan.

The first trade group to the Middle East, of 10 members, sponsored by China External Trade Development Council, will be staying in Amman from March 11th—March 15th.

The second trade group to the Middle East, of 22 members, sponsored by the International Trade Association of the ROC, will arrive in Amman on March 12th for a four-day stay.

The third group, the Taiwan Railroad Investigation Team of the ROC, of 9 members and sponsored by the Ministry of Communications of the ROC, arrives on March 17th for a five-day visit to Jordan.

What's Going On

BRITISH COUNCIL: 6.00 p.m. Film: "Five British Sculptors at Work."

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Television

CHANNEL 3 & 6:
 6.00 Quran
 6.10 Cartoons
 6.30 Barbary Coast
 8.00 News in Arabic

CHANNEL 3:
 7.30 Arabic songs
 8.30 Book review
 9.30 Arabic series

CHANNEL 6:

7.30 News in Hebrew
 7.45 Varieties
 8.30 Doctor in the house
 9.00 Science report
 9.10 Justice
 10.00 News in English
 10.15 Switch (on both channels)

Amman Airport

DEPARTURES:

7.20 Beirut
 8.45 Beirut (M.E.A.)
 9.30 Rome
 10.15 Kuwait (K.A.C.)
 10.30 Athens, Madrid, Casablanca
 11.00 Geneva, Brussels, Amsterdam
 11.15 Bahrain
 19.00 Bahrain, Bangkok
 21.00 Jeddah
 22.55 Doha, Muscat

ARRIVALS:

8.30 Bangkok, Bahrain
 9.30 Kuwait (K.A.C.)
 9.50 Beirut
 17.15 Cairo
 17.20 Copenhagen, Frankfurt
 17.35 Paris
 17.40 London
 17.45 Rome
 18.30 Beirut (M.E.A.)
 18.40 Amsterdam, Athens (R.T.M.)



BACK FROM PAKISTAN. — Mr. Bahjat Talhouni, Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament (left), head of the parliamentary delegation to Pakistan and Senator Abdul Muneim Rifai (centre), are welcomed home by Mr. Hassan Ibrahim (right), the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, upon returning from their eight-day visit to Pakistan. (JNA photo).

Jordan to attend conference on industry, commerce and agriculture

AMMAN. — The Amman Chamber of Industry and the Federation of the Jordanian Chambers of Commerce will participate in the 20th session of the Arab Chambers of Industry,

Commerce and Agriculture conference to be held in Alexandria May 17-21.

The conferees will discuss the role of Arab businessmen in the economic development of their respective countries and the importance and role of the various Arab chambers of industry, commerce and agriculture to consolidate and increase economic and commercial cooperation between Arab countries. The effect of special legislation on investment and how it may influence joint investments and industrial projects will also be discussed. Production in Arab countries will also be reviewed, with a special emphasis on supplying Arab armies with food supplies of Arab production.

Large quantities of eggs imported from Bulgaria

AMMAN. — Large quantities of imported eggs will arrive here in the next two days. Ministry of Supply sources said Monday. These quantities, imported from Bulgaria the sources added, will be sold at the prices previously announced. The Ministry, sources concluded, will not allow import of eggs against the Ministry's regulations drawn up to protect the consumer.

JD514,000 for Aqaba airport

AMMAN, (JNA). — The government has allocated the sum of JD 514,000 for the completion of Aqaba airport. This sum will be used to light the runways, the housing project of the Aqaba airport employees, and the construction of some buildings including the Royal Compartment.

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\$1m AID loan for Jordan Valley Irrigation project

AMMAN, (JT). — The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has extended Jordan a loan of \$ 1 million to study the economic, technical and financial feasibility of the Jordan Valley Irrigation Project—stage II, Vice President of the Jordan Valley Commission, Dr Munther Haddadin told JT yesterday.

The loan agreement was signed March 2, by the American ambassador to Amman, Mr Thomas Pickering, on behalf of the US government and by Omar Abdullah, President of the Jordan Valley Commission, on

behalf of the Jordanian government. Dr. Haddadin said the project consists of the following:

— Construction of a high dam on the Yarmouk River near the Maqarin station on the border between Jordan and Syria, with a 200 metre reservoir capacity.
 — Extension of the Ghor Canal from the Dead Sea.

— Installation of a new irrigation network for an area of 15,000 hectares.

— Conversion of hectares of currently irrigated areas in the Jordan Valley to sprinkler irrigation.

— Hydro-electric power generation from the dam.

The total cost of the project is estimated at JD 1.5 billion and is planned to be completed by 1982, Dr. Haddadin said.

An American company, Harza Overseas Co., has been hired to study the feasibility of the project. An interim feasibility study will be completed in 6 months time, and a final study will be completed by April 1, 1976.

On the basis of the feasibility report, the Valley Commission will contact with several international organizations for secure funds for the project. The project is expected to be completed by 1982.

Saturday is official holiday

AMMAN. — All public and private institutions will be closed this Saturday, in commemoration of the Prophet Mohammad's birthday, according to a statement issued by Acting Premier Dr. Subhi Amin Amr.

Iraqi economic delegation to visit Amman

AMMAN. — An Iraqi economic delegation, headed by the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Trade, will arrive here on March 17 to hold talks with Jordanian officials.

The Jordanian party in the talks will be headed by Mr. Hashem Dabbas, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce. The talks will concentrate on the consolidation of economic relations between the two countries, the increase of commercial exchange and the expansion of the Iraqi Trade Center in Amman.

NATIONAL BRIEF

● AMMAN. — Jordanians will participate in the Agricultural Conference at the British Berkshire Hotel on July 11. The conference is organized by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and will discuss plans for agricultural development throughout the world.

● AMMAN. — The Agency Director General, Mr. Majid Majal, left for a 21 day visit to the People's Republic of China at the invitation of the Chinese government. A new agreement between the ROC and the PRC will be discussed during the visit.

● AMMAN. — Jordanians will be invited to the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development, to be held in mid March.

● AMMAN. — Jordanians will be invited to the Physiology Conference, held in Cairo on March 10-11. The conference is organized by the Egyptian Science and Technology Research Academy.

Market Price

Apples (Golden) 100—160
 Apples (Starken) 100—170
 Apples (Double Red) 200—250
 Bananas 120—190
 Bell Peppers 200—260
 Cabbage 45—70
 Cauliflower (Local, Large) each 450
 Cauliflower (Medium) 300
 Carrots (Yellow) 45—60
 Carrots (Black) 60—80
 Chestnuts 310—350
 Cucumbers (Small) 200—260
 Cucumbers (Large) 120—150
 Grapefruit 30—60
 Garlic 60—80
 Lemon 70—110
 Lettuce (Large) 50—80
 Lettuce (Small) 25—50
 Hot Pepper 350—550
 Horse Beans 110—170
 Marrow (Small) 150—200
 Marrow (Large) 110—150
 Oranges (French) 50—100
 Oranges (Local) 50—110
 Oranges (Naval) 70—120
 Potatoes (Egyptian) 80
 Potatoes (Local) 100—120
 Spinach 40—65
 String Beans 250—310
 Tangerines 45—90
 Tomatoes 65—85

Tonight's Emergencies

DOCTORS:
 Dr. Yousef Abu-Samour
 Dr. Abdul-Aziz Abu-Samour (63552)

PHARMACIES:
 Huggin (38410)
 Ghassan (51772)
 Hindi (24422)

TAXIS:
 Nahda (37882)
 Taxina (44660)
 Talal (25021)

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Hard swing by Italian Socialists imperils Moro government

ROME, March 8, (AFP). — The Italian government, which was the "good will" of the Socialists in abstaining in the vote of confidence which allowed the formation of the government.

The aim of the Socialists is ambitious. The reorientation of Italian society towards socialism is full of obstacles. The main obstacle is the hostility of the Italian Communist Party towards the Popular Front. The Communists prefer their "historic compromise" with the Christian Democrats whereas the Socialists is to remove the Christian Democrats from power.

The second obstacle is the relative electoral weakness of the Socialists, the third most powerful party with 9.6 per cent of votes in the 1972 elections, a long way behind the Christian Democrats who gained 38.8 per cent and the Communists who gained 27.2 per cent. Elections would be the only way of changing this relationship between the parties.

But nothing points clearly to such a change, that is why, in the event of the elections (to be held soon or in the spring of 1977) not resulting in a majority for the left, the Socialists might consider an alliance with the Communists and the Christian Democrats.

The Socialists would see such an alliance not as the realisation of the historic compromise, but only as a stage in the process leading to the swing to the left.

S. Africa to use Israeli boat design

TEL AVIV, March 8 (AFP). — A South African shipyard is to build patrol boats under licence granted by the Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI) subsidiary company Ramta. Israeli newspapers reported today quoting the latest issue of the British Flight International journal.

The shipyards, Sandhoek-Austral of Durban, will equip the boats with Gabriel Mark II long-range sea-to-sea missiles made by another IAI subsidiary.

The shipyards would also equip six corvettes with the Gabriel missiles, the reports said.

There has been no reaction from IAI to the report.



WOMEN'S DAY — Thousands of women demonstrate in Rome Monday marking the World's Womens Day. (AP wirephoto).

Canada reassures Israel over PLO role at "Habitat"

JERUSALEM, March 8 (R). — Canadian Minister for Urban Affairs, Mr. Barnett Danson, said today he would do his best to prevent political issues from intruding into the United Nations Habitat Conference on Human Settlement which is to take place in Vancouver in June.

Mr. Danson, Chairman of the Habitat Conference, was asked at a press conference about the participation of a delegation from the Palestine Liberation Organisation. He said Arab leaders were also anxious to limit the Conference's discussions to urban issues.

Israel was the last leg of a seven nation trip by Mr. Danson to assure "relevance, credibility and effectiveness" of the Habitat Conference.

Socialists main winners of French elections

PARIS, March 8, (AFP). — France's left-wing opposition has come out ahead of the government majority in the first round of cantonal elections held yesterday, with the Socialists making gains at the expense of their Communist allies.

It was the first national vote since President Valery Giscard d'Estaing's election in May 1974, and although the vote was officially "non political," most of the French nevertheless considered the elections a major test for the Giscard administration.

The election affected 50 per cent of the cantons (the second largest administrative units) throughout France and its four overseas departments. The cantons each elect one representative to the General Council that administers the French and overseas departments. Mandates run six years, with half of them renewable in alternate polls every three years. Next Sunday will see the second and final round in this year's alternate poll.

In yesterday's ballot, candidates of the left-wing opposition—the Communists, Socialists, and left radicals—obtained 56.3 per cent of the vote, against the 43.2 per cent of the government majority (Gaullists, Independent Republicans).

The Socialists did best, winning seats not only in safe socialist constituencies, but also in the so-called Paris "Red Belt," traditionally loyal to the Communist Party, the Socialists, political ally.

On the government side, the Gaullists lost seats, and yesterday's overall losses could mean that next Sunday's ballot will see six or seven departments falling under control of the opposition.

Voting abstentions yesterday—33 per cent—were lower than in the two previous polls: 48.60 per cent (1973) and 38.2 per cent (1970).

Mr Chirac has claimed that the elections are not a political test because local issues and personalities play a role and a number of candidates do not have formal party backing. But other members of the government admit that yesterday's vote has a political character and represents a national opinion poll and a pointer to parliamentary elections scheduled for 1978.

The opposition led a full-scale election campaign the participation, for the first time in France, of 18-to-21 years-olds in the elections was also another undoubted factor in the "politicisation" of the ballot.

Prime Minister Jacques Chirac and 14 other members of the government were elected in the first round. Of the 18 government members who were candidates, the other three failed to poll better than 50 per cent, and they thus go into the run-offs.

Interior Minister Michel Poniatowski, Secretary-General of the Independent Republicans, today commented that the first round had been "a parallel advance by the Independent Republicans and the Socialists," which he said had been achieved "essentially to the detriment of the Communist Party."

The Socialist Party's National Secretary, Claude Estier, has contested this theory: "The progress of the Socialist Party," he said, "has not been made at the expense of the Communists, who have fallen back only

Indian rat population borders 3.6 billion

NEW DELHI, March 8 (AFP). — For every Indians there are six rats living in the country.

According to latest estimates India's total population is 604 million.

The Minister of State for Agriculture, A.P. Shinde, informed parliament today in reply to a question that though there were no accurate figures available yet, the rat population was believed to be six times the human population.

At least 2.5 per cent of the food grains were eaten away by these rodents, he complained.

France plans E. African missile installations

PARIS, (AFP). — France is discreetly building five mini-bases commanding the strategic Mozambique Channel, it was reported here today.

The weekly L'Express said the bases are equipped with landing strips and radio posts which were already monitoring signals from foreign shipping in the Indian Ocean.

The weekly said there were two reasons for choosing the channel: to protect the merchant route round the Cape of Good Hope; and to strengthen presence in the north of the Ocean.

It noted the view of an American strategist that the northern area was "the best place in the world from which to launch Poseidon Missiles on either China's nuclear installations at Sin-Kiang or the Soviet Union."

Some of the bases are situated on islands 1,500 kms south-east of Beira, others are on islands in the centre of the channel and 1,500 kms east and north-west of Diego Suarez, northern Madagascar. All the island bases will be fitted with missile launch equipment, L'Express said.

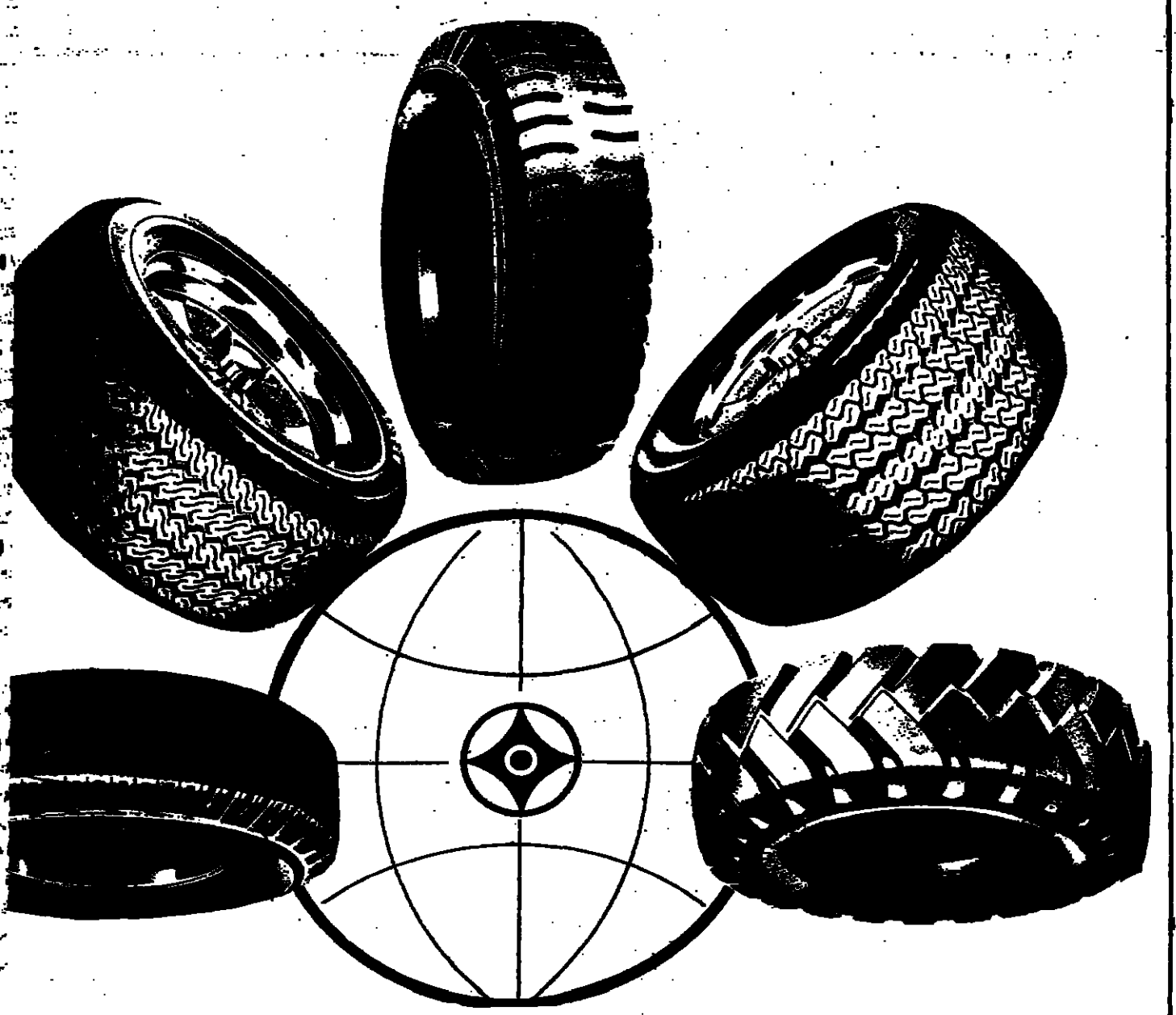
L'Express quoted Admiral Schweitzer as saying "each day, about 70 French merchant ships sail through these waters... France has a fortune in the Indian Ocean and you don't leave your wallet beside the road without keeping an eye on it."

The weekly recalled that Rhodesia is today's flashpoint in East Africa, adding "tomorrow it could be South Africa or Kenya."

It reported that France's three nuclear submarines frequently patrol a 10,000 square km area in the Gulf of Bengal. The Mozambique Channel would be an ideal radio relay post, it said.

L'Express added that France needed land-based radio posts in spite of its "spy satellites" and pointed out that the Soviet Union makes use of phoney trawlers for the same purpose.

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Beginners abstain.

Saudia Arabia denies abandoning 5-yr. program

RIYADH, Mar. 8, (AFP). — Saudi Arabia yesterday denied foreign press reports that it had abandoned a \$ 142,000m development programme less than a year after it was launched.

The Information Ministry said a report to that effect in the International Herald Tribune last Wednesday was "totally unfounded."

The report added two members of the Saudi government,

India, East Germany sign economic agreement

NEW DELHI, March 8 (AFP). — East German Deputy Premier Wolfgang Rauchfuss's talks with Industries and Civil Supplies Minister T.A. Pai on economic cooperation between the two countries ended here Friday.

Both sides agreed that various proposals made during the discussions should be examined by joint teams of experts before being taken up by the Indo-East German joint commission in New Delhi.

Among the proposals were an exchange of machine tools and possible supply of machinery and equipment by East Germany to modernise India's state-run textile mills.

An official release said that there was exchange of views between the two sides on prospects of joint ventures in third countries, particularly in the engineering sector.

Unemployment declines in US

WASHINGTON, March 8 (AFP). — Unemployment declined again in February in the United States, falling to 7.6 per cent against January's 7.8 per cent and December's 8.3 per cent, the Department of Labour reported.

The number of people at work rose last month by 125,000 to 86,300,000, reaching the level of July 1974. Those out of work dropped by 150,000 to 7,100,000, after seasonal adjustment.

Officials said that the February unemployment fall came as something of a surprise, and appeared to show that the U.S. recovery was stronger than anticipated when the year began.

Commerce Minister Soliman Solaim and Industry Minister Ghazi Abdel Rahman Husaibi as saying there was no loss in pride in abandoning the plan and that it was better to drop out earlier than half-way through the five-year schedule.

The report said the reasons for scrapping the programme were 50 percent inflation, soaring land speculation and production cuts and a lack of manpower. It added that conservative Saudis were glad because they feared that foreign workers brought in to keep the programme going would undermine the country's traditional Moslem ways.

Sterling's sharp plunge was due to misinterpretation by speculators

LONDON, March 8, (AFP). — A misinterpretation of British monetary policy was the probable cause of sterling's sharp plunge, government officials here said today.

The officials denied that the drop had been caused deliberately by the Bank of England.

Rumours among foreign exchange dealers hinted this in the morning. Some dealers said at the time they thought the bank might be seeking to produce a decline that would favour British exports. Others thought it might be in preparation for a return into the "European snake" or collective float.

Officials discounted reports that the British currency's sharp decline over the weekend had been caused by Nigeria or some other Commonwealth country which had decided to convert at least part of its sterling balance into dollars.

Official spokesmen stressed that the foreign exchanges have remained nervy since the start of the Italian lira crisis several weeks ago. They recalled that the lira crisis triggered speculation on a devaluation of the French franc and a revaluation of the Deutsche mark and the Dutch guilder inside the "snake." It also put upward pressure on the freely floating Swiss franc.

In such a tense atmosphere these spokesmen said, a small spark might sometimes be enough to start a big fire. This time, the spark might have been a major sale of sterling by the Bank of England last Thursday morning.

Whitehall sources said the central bank had simply taken



TANKER TRADERS. — British Petroleum (BP) Chairman David Stool (left) and Chairman and General Managing Director of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) Dr. M. Eghbal (centre) are pictured during a ceremony in Teheran Monday during which they signed a contract covering tanker sales. BP sold three very large crude carriers and two products carriers to the National Iranian Tanker Company for about \$60 million.

advantage of the relative firmness of sterling at that point to replenish its reserves of other currencies.

This might have been interpreted by some speculators as an indication that the bank wanted to provoke a further small depreciation of the floating pound, which had been fairly stable for two to three months, while it was regularly losing value last year.

Speculators apparently considered that this interpretation was backed up by two facts. On the one hand, the central bank allowed British interest rates to sink, while U.S. short term rates were rising, and did nothing to prevent a further drop in the lending rate (bank rate) on Friday.

On the other hand, there was no energetic intervention by the bank on the market when sterling declined on Friday.

The impression that the Bank of England was seeking a further depreciation of the pound thus spread rapidly and sterling selling orders began snowballing because of the rumours and uncertainties.

Whitehall sources said after this morning's rush out of sterling that they hoped the situation would return to normal quickly, and that the pound would rise to more realistic levels.

They said payments and trade balance figures as well as other economic indicators due to be published this week should remind speculators that Britain's economic recovery is continuing.

They also said that if the Wilson government was staking its hopes on expanded exports and a decline in imports to reduce unemployment, it was not in its interest to allow any excessive depreciation of the pound.

For the de facto devaluation makes raw materials, food and

other necessary goods dearer, and higher import costs would make it still harder to fight inflation in Britain.

USSR to resume oil shipments to Japan

TOKYO, March 9 (R). — The Soviet Union has offered to restart sales of crude oil to Japan with initial shipments totalling about one million tons, well-informed oil industry sources said here today.

But they said the price was too high and the quantity too small to interest Idemitsu Kosan, the Japanese oil refining firm to which the Soviet approach was made.

Idemitsu Kosan was the sole importer of Soviet crude until sales were virtually stopped following the 1973 oil crisis.

Solarcon glass to be produced in Taiwan

TAIPEI, March 6 (AFP). — Taiwan Glass Corporation (TGC) recently opened a new factory to produce solarcon heat-absorbing coloured sheet glass, it was learned today.

TGC is making the new product in its \$6 million plant under a 10-year licence from Pilkington Brothers Limited, of England.

Solarcon sheet glass is dark grey and has thickness of five mm. Its visible transmission is 18 per cent and total heat transmission 58 per cent.

It reduces solar heat transmitted into the interior of the building, thus saving costs of air-conditioning.

TGC solarcon production will be 22,000 metric tons a year. It will be sold both domestically and overseas, a spokesman said.

ECONOSCOPE Wooden Crutch for Sterling

By Jawad Ahmad

The maze of currency relations in international money markets is as puzzling to observers as to those who are involved in it up to their necks. The nomenclature in that branch of economics can shake sophisticated philologists and articulate lexicographers out of their sobriety.

When I was an undergraduate, I only knew two economic terms which signified the price relation between one currency and another, namely; par value and exchange rate. Now, the array includes central rate, effective rate, basket rate, floating rate, cross rate, conversion rate, spot rate, forward rate, etc...

The complexity however is not merely confined to the jargon; it extends to actual developments on the international monetary scene. Currencies are on the see-saw, once up and once down. No major currency has been immune from these upswings and downswings during the last 4 years. The U.S. dollar has had its bad and good days; in 1971 and 1972 massive purchases of dollars from the Eurodollar market by Japan and West Germany cushioned the U.S. dollar until it could rise again safe and sound. The German mark, although formidable, declined vis-à-vis the dollar in 1975 but improved later. The ax has fallen sharply on the Italian lira, and it has not recovered as yet.

Yet the currency which has shown constant decline since 1949 is the pound Sterling. All face-lifting operations performed on it have failed to improve its looks. Two days ago, it declined from J.D. 0.677 to roughly JD 0.658, and the cause was attributed to an expected Rhodesian war with Mozambique. I fail to see the connection, but the fact

of life which must be lived with pound Sterling is dipping down.

There are two weapons in the International Monetary Fund's arsenal, be used to cope with the situation and SDRs, (or Special Drawing Rights).

IMF has sanctioned floating as a legitimate action. Ideally means allowing market forces to the price of a currency. In reality, boil down to sheer political manipulation, ultimate confusion. Weaker currency to be at the losing end every time becomes the exception which makes the rule.

SDRs are dummy assets created to replace gold in its state the dollar as the international unit of account. Gold has lost some of its eyes of IMF, but its increase versus other currencies cannot. The IMF has established a gold standard which derives its resources from the official gold price. In other words, the asset in terms of price strength SDRs, or the IMF's "Rosemarie" have yet to rise to the role for which have been designed. The demand as a means for creating further payment is still sluggish. It would sumptuous, however, to pre-judge the performance while they are still in the

The IMF package deal which was at Kingston, Jamaica last December not yet done much, nor is it likely in the foreseeable future. Its main may lie in the wealth of terms known to the already fat international nomenclature. How else would known such things as: oil fund, gold subsidy account, etc...

Canada to resume nuclear aid to India?

HALIFAX, (NOVA SCOTIA) Mar. 8, (AFP). — External Affairs Minister Allan Rock said Saturday he knows nothing about an agreement between Canada and India to resume nuclear aid to that country.

The Minister was commenting on reports from New Delhi which said Canada has agreed in principle Saturday to resume nuclear assistance.

The report said that under the accord, awaiting approval from both governments, Canada will provide India with critical components needed to complete a nuclear power reactor in Rajasthan State.

Mr Maceachen said he had not spoken with his negotiation team since it left Ottawa for India.

Asked why External Affairs Department personnel in Ottawa

U.S. cotton team visits 3 far east countries

WASHINGTON, March 8 AFP. — A U.S. cotton team will visit Japan, Korea and Hong Kong March 9-20 under joint sponsorship of cotton council international and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, it was announced here Friday.

The purpose of the visit is to reappraise the need for American cotton in view of the recovery now under way in those important U.S. markets from the severe recession of the past several months, the U.S. Department of Agriculture said. The team will report to U.S. cotton producers and other segments of the industry on the situation and outlets in the three markets.

The itinerary for the team includes, Osaka, Japan March 9-13, Seoul, Korea March 13-17, and Hong Kong March 17-20. Two additional trade team visits are planned for other countries in the far east later in calendar year 1976.

Economic to be extended between Hungary and U.A.E

DUBAI, March 8 Hungarian Minister Dr. Lajos Faluvegy here today with a side of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Sh. Bin Said Al-Maktoum.

The meeting was the UAE Finance Minister, Sheikh Rashid.

The Hungarian Minister arrived here this morning from Abu Dhabi, the UAE capital, where he was received by UAE President Zaid Bin Sultan.

The Minister carried with him a letter of invitation from the UAE on extending economic relations between the two countries.

The Hungarian Minister had talks in Abu Dhabi with UAE Health Minister Mr. Seif Bin Mohammed and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mr. Seif Bin

India to start to produce offshore oil next month

NEW DELHI, March 8 (R). — Commercial production from India's offshore oil field in the area known as Bombay High will begin next month, it was announced here today.

The Oil and Natural Gas Commission said in a report that production would begin from two wells and would total about 500,000 tons by the end of this year.

Production is expected to increase by up to two million tons per year from 1977, and eventually reach a target of about 10 million tons annually. The field is located off the west coast of India, near Bombay.

LONDON MARKET REPO

The decline in sterling was reflected Monday in weakness of government bonds and the firmness of oriented leading industrials, dealers said.

Government stocks were up to 7/8 point earlier dated issues, 1/8 point off the day's lows shorts were 1/4 point lower on balance.

Gains of 7p and 8p were scored among those industrials which are also major exporters, although oil shares came off the top later.

Oils were firm while banks were largely mixed. Mining shares fluctuated narrowly with the dollar premium, but the trend was generally firm.

Australians were marked up following home market the higher investment dollar premium.

Among leading equities to gain between 6p and Bowater, Glaxo, Thorn, Unilever and Hawker Siddeley firmed 10p in Tobaccos while Courtaulds eased back night levels. Fisons added 7p ahead of results due to and Shell put on 9p in the same circumstances.

Smaller rises of between 3p and 5p were scored GEC, Beecham and ICI.

Among irregularly higher mines, De Beers gained 3p while RTZ and Cons Gold recorded on balance gains of 4p respectively.

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A representative of the United States Internal Revenue Service will provide taxpayer assistance to all persons wishing to file a United States Federal Income Tax return. The representative will offer half-day seminars from 0900 to 1200 hours on Sunday March 7, 1976 and Monday March 8. In addition he will be available for assistance on a walk-in basis from 13.30 to 16.00 hours on March 7 and March 8, the morning and afternoon of March 9 and the morning of March 10.

Both the seminars and the walk-in assistance will be at the American Center (USIS) just off Third Circle. All who have tax questions or problems are urged to use the services of the IRS representative which are provided free of charge.

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مكتبة النخيل

rebirth of a "gargantuan musical feast"

It has been for World Sibelius's Fourth Symphony A MAJESTIC HALL. Birmingham Triennial and Elgar's "Music Makers," festival, centred on fell into complete neglect. And largest city, And after the war people turned to radio, motor cars and the cinema for their entertainment during the late 19th.

But great ideas die hard, and in recent years the Birmingham City Corporation has said it would restore the festival to its former glory, following the guidelines which laid the foundations of its earlier success — "good popular music performed by the best available artists in the world."

Whether the revival will emulate the greatness of the past remains to be seen. But one fact is unquestionable: Birmingham's musical prestige is once again on the increase after years of mediocrity.

The city can boast one of the finest orchestras in Europe and its concert hall is a majestic town hall styled on the temple of Jupiter Stator in Rome.

Three festivals have been held in this revival period and have featured performers such as Boult, Rostropovich, Steven Bishop-Kovacevich, Isaac Stern, Barenboim, Tortelier, Campoli, Jochum and Maxim Shostakovich.

Plans for the next event — in September, 1977 — are only in an embryonic stage, but the organisers intend to make it a major event in the musical calendar. As a member of the organising committee put it: "We have one of Europe's best orchestras in the City of Birmingham. Symphony Orchestra

and we want to assemble the best artists in the world alongside it in order to present music at its highest level.

"We want to present a large scale choral work and also the world premiere of a work by a British composer. And we are also looking into the possibilities of bringing over one of the top mainland European orchestras for a concert."

ORGANISER KEPT HIS WORD

When the festivals began in the early 1820s Joseph Moore, who was organising them, declared that they were to feature "performances finer and more perfect than any that have taken place in the kingdom."

What followed could never have been imagined, even by Moore. By 1834 Birmingham



The world famous City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra seen during a concert at the Birmingham Town Hall.

was said to enjoy "the finest concert room in the world" and in the ensuing years the city witnessed some of the most important musical events. Sullivan's "The Light of the World," Gounod's "Redemption," Dvorak's "Requiem Mass" and "The Spectre's Bride," and Sibelius's Fourth Symphony were among works which received their first performances at Birmingham, often under the direction of the composers themselves.

In the years between 1820 and 1912 as Birmingham became more famous throughout the world as "The City of a Thousand Trades," it also became a celebrated centre of music featuring not only major world premieres but also artists such as Joachim, Hans Richter and Sir Henry Wood. It was also responsible for introducing major works to the British public for the first time; Brahms "Te Deum" at the festival of 1903 was one.

The composer Antonin Dvorak commented in 1884: "I am here in this immense industrial town where they make excellent knives, scissors, springs, files and I don't know what else, and besides this music too — and how well!"

One unsubstantiated account speaks of a party being held during festival week at which could be seen "Mr. Grieg, Mr. Dvorak and Mr. Brahms sitting at a table conversing together."

CHORAL SUCCESSES

But if the festival did not manage to attract that sort of attention, it would still have earned a page in musical history — as the birthplace of the two choral works, Mendelssohn's "Elijah" (1846) and Elgar's "Dream of Gerontius" (1900), both of which stemmed directly from the enthusiasm of the organisers.

After the premiere of "Elijah" Mendelssohn wrote to his brother: "No work of mine

ever went so admirably at the first performance or was received with such enthusiasm both by musicians and public as this."

That is the sort of atmosphere today's organisers wish to recreate. The last three festivals have already presented past?

Tonight's TV Features

SWITCH
COME DIE WITH ME
Members of the crew flying a cargo of U.S. dollars switch them with false banknotes. Stewardess eyewitness of the whole operation is murdered. MacBride enters the scene helped by captain.

BARBARY COAST
THE DAY CABLE WAS HANGED
Cash and Cable get hold of Charlie Booth presumed assassin of President Lincoln. Before his execution they discover that they have committed a mistake and do their best to help him escape.

JUSTICE
ONE FOR THE ROAD
Driver Brian Bex kills 4 persons and injures 3 in a car accident. Failing a breathalyser he falls unconscious on the pavement. Harriet has the responsibility to prove Bex's innocence.

Where to lunch and dine Today

The Diplomat First Circle, Jebel Amman. Tel. 25592. Open from 7 a.m. to 1 a.m. Restaurant, snack bar, coffee shop, patisseries. Oriental and European specialities.

CHINESE Restaurant Jebel Amman, near Ahliyah School or CMS. Tel. 38968. Open daily from noon to 3.30 p.m. and 7 p.m. to midnight.

First Circle Jebel Amman, opposite Spanish Embassy. Tel. 38212. Open for lunch, dinner. Speciality mezza and grillades variées. Kindly reserve your table.

STEAKHOUSE Under new Swedish management — Firas Wings Hotel — Jebel L'weibdeh, Amman. Tel. 22103/4. Choice of three set menus daily for lunch and à la Carte. Open for lunch 12-3 p.m. and dinner 7-11 p.m. kindly book your table.

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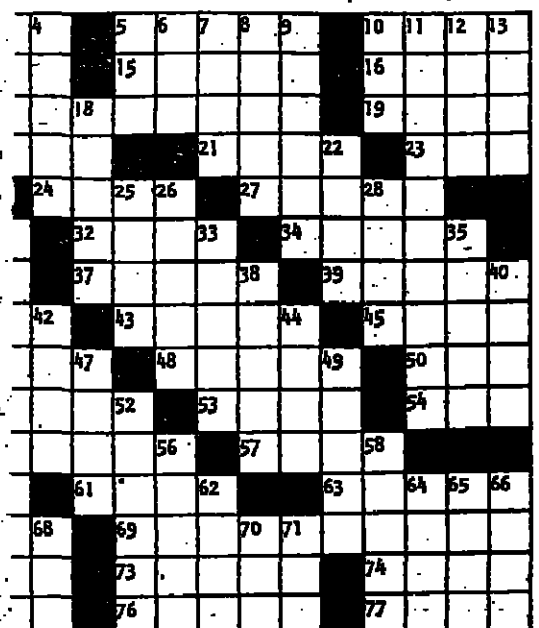
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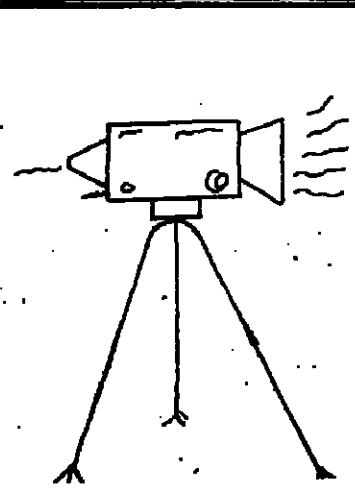


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Crossword Puzzle



- ACROSS**
- 1 Espy
 - 5 Absalom's sister
 - 10 Cottage cheese part
 - 14 Genus of peacocks
 - 15 "A Bell for —"
 - 16 Two-toed sloth
 - 17 Not working
 - 19 Spanish demonstrative
 - 20 True inner skin
 - 21 Over
 - 23 Fish
 - 24 French-Belgian river
 - 27 Formal dinner feature
 - 29 Old French coin
 - 32 — trigger
 - 34 Flagstone
 - 36 "This — For Hire"
 - 37 Something of value
 - 39 Mah-jongg pieces
 - 41 French cleric
 - 43 Lukewarm
 - 45 Say: Fr.
 - 46 Derring-do
 - 48 Revolt
 - 50 Nothing
 - 51 Scrutinizes
 - 53 Mope
 - 54 Coagulate
 - 55 Leaves out
 - 57 Helps
 - 59 Supply weapons
 - 61 Fastidious
 - 63 Rent
 - 67 Track
 - 69 Solo
 - 72 Italian waterway
 - 73 Antoinette
 - 74 Ten cents
 - 75 Great Comb. form
 - 76 Locations
 - 77 Gun
 - 78 Down
 - 1 Potato
 - 2 Bread: Ital.
 - 3 Finished
 - 4 British GI
 - 5 Oriental cymbals
 - 6 Fuss
 - 7 Central American Indian
 - 8 Concocting
 - 9 Cowboy exhibitions
 - 10 Hint
 - 11 Disturbing
 - 12 Appraise
 - 13 Pistols at ten paces
 - 18 Emlin
 - 22 Whitman
 - 25 The Orient
 - 26 Stair part
 - 28 Port
 - 29 Mild oath
 - 30 3-D squares
 - 31 Improper
 - 33 Resist successfully
 - 35 Uncanny
 - 38 Shinbone
 - 40 Soft or hard
 - 42 Cheese
 - 44 Amaz
 - 47 Quick cut
 - 49 Serving piece
 - 52 Plays the banjo
 - 56 Mount
 - 58 Dispatches
 - 59 Ancient Syria
 - 60 Uncommon
 - 62 Agora
 - 64 Mine entrance
 - 65 Scattered: Her.
 - 66 Paradise
 - 68 African eye-worm
 - 70 Neck and neck result
 - 71 Thy: Fr.



According to intelligence reports Mozambique steps up war effort

WASHINGTON, March 8, Salisbury said yesterday that Mozambique troops had fired on Rhodesian aircraft three times in the past five days. According to the communication, the Rhodesian planes had been fired on within Rhodesian airspace but were not hit. Meanwhile in Capetown, it was announced that South African railways will definitely

The sources said the arms were seen being unloaded in the northern port of Beira.

Three Soviet ships were also reported to be heading towards Mozambique.

Meanwhile there are contradictory reports that Cuban troops fresh from their victory in Angola have arrived in Mozambique where an estimated 4,000 Rhodesian nationalists are ready to go into action against the white minority government in Salisbury.

However the guerrilla forces are understood to be handicapped by poor training and a lack of arms and experienced officers.

In a related development, a security forces communicate in

Kuwait companies negotiate oil price

KUWAIT, March 8 (AFP). — The Kuwaiti Oil Ministry has begun talks with British Petroleum and Gulf Oil on the price for oil in the second half of this year, it was announced today.

The ministry has told the companies that the present rate of 11.3 dollars a barrel will be maintained and that the companies will continue to get a rebate of 15 cents under the agreement on the Kuwait Oil Company takeover by the government.

Talks with Exxon were also in progress concerning the scope for Exxon to resume purchase of Kuwaiti crude, after the suspension last October.

Exxon has an agreement dating back to March last year. If the talks get nowhere, the agreement will be suspended for another six months.

Egyptian trade minister reschedules Moscow visit

CAIRO, March 8, (R). — Egyptian Minister of Trade Zakaria Tawfik Abdel-Fattah today denied that his proposed visit to Moscow would be cancelled but said a new date had to be fixed.

He was commenting on a report in the semi-official newspaper Al-Ahram today that the visit, postponed twice before, was expected to be cancelled.

The minister is to sign a new trade protocol for 1976 with the Soviet Union and discuss a basis for trade and payment agreements for the period 1977-1980. The new protocol is worth about 320 million sterling—40 million less than last year.

U.S. must look at Egypt's needs

(Continued from page 1) in tomorrow's Republican primary election in Florida and so take a formidable lead over Ronald Reagan in the race for the party's presidential nomination.

An opinion poll published yesterday showed the President poised to take Florida by a three-to-one margin over the former California Governor.

The poll, published in the St. Petersburg Sunday Times, covered voters in the Pinegla Country, Florida.

Newsweek magazine also predicted a sweeping victory for Mr Ford, who has defeated his arch-conservative rival in three primaries already.

help Rhodesia counter the effects of the border closure with Mozambique if called upon to do so. Railways General Manager J. H. G. Loubser made the announcement last night.

He made it clear however that the South African Railways would not "rescue" the confiscated goods and rolling stock belonging to Rhodesia now in the hands of the Mozambique authorities.

"The tribulations between Rhodesia and Mozambique do not in any way affect the agreements between the South African Railways administration & the railways administrations of other neighbouring states," he said.

Saudi takeover of ARAMCO is imminent

WASHINGTON, March 8, (Agencies). — Saudi Arabia's Oil Minister and a group of top American oil executives, now meeting in secrecy in Florida, are believed to be discussing final arrangements for a Saudi take-over of the giant Arabian-American Oil Company, the White House said today.

ARAMCO is owned by Texaco, Exxon, Mobil and Standard Oil of California.

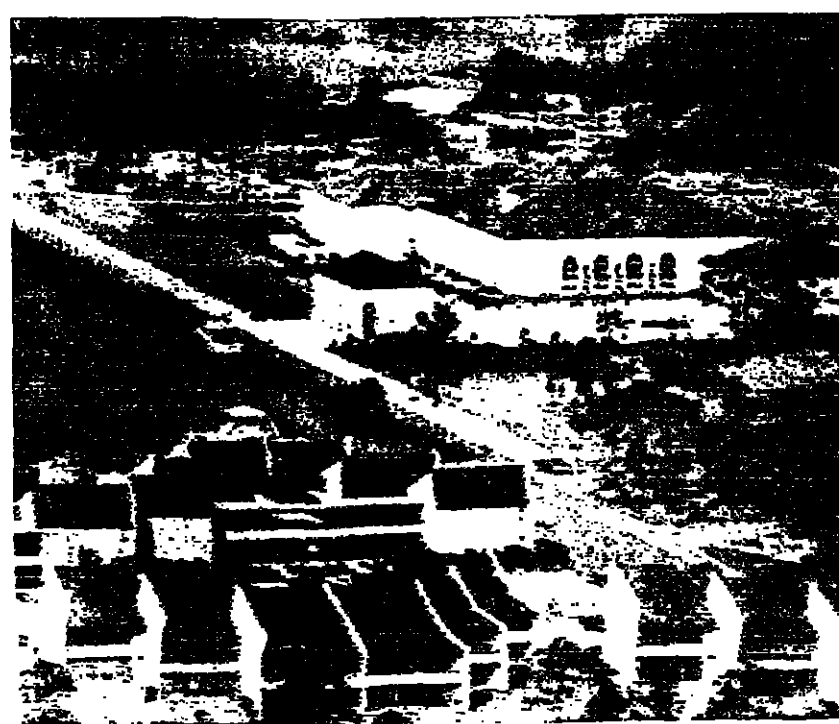
Talks on compensation for Syria, Jordan ready for union

(Continued from page 1) here as a reference to Egypt, which Syria says has sold out the Palestinian cause by signing the second disengagement agreement with Israel last September.

"The stronger this front is, the more successful it will be in felling future plots. It will also be able to launch counter-attacks which will make it possible for the Arabs to rally behind it on the road to liberation," Mr Ayoubi said.

Deserters take over Lebanese Army post

(Continued from page 1) as part of wedding and funeral ceremonies. Brig. Ahdab said the 4,700 Lebanese soldiers and police in the capital, and Palestinian units, were under orders to fire on sight at any armed man who did not respond to a first challenge.



SECLUDED MEETING. — The Saudi Minister of Minerals and Natural Resources Sheikh Ahmad Zaki Yamani and officials of four U.S. oil companies met in seclusion Sunday in Panama City. The meeting took place at the Country Club building (centre) as shown by this aerial photo. (AP wirephoto).

the U.S. companies have been going on for at least a year. White House Press Secretary Ron Nessen said today that no U.S. government officials were taking part in the talks, being held in a plush country club complex. The facilities of the Country Club have been hired for up to ten days, but indications are that the meeting will not exceed four to five days. Experts consider that several major issues are still holding up agreement on the full nationalisation of ARAMCO. These include the quantity of oil that will be guaranteed the four American companies after the take-over, and the price, which, according to some indications, might be slightly below the world market levels.



TIGHT SECURITY. — Security men surround the daughter of Sheikh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, the Saudi Minister of Minerals and Natural Resources when she arrived in Panama City late Saturday night with two U.S. oil officials. The Minister was here for take-over talks of the companies' holdings in Saudi Arabia. (AP wirephoto).

Callaghan ends Iran visit but results still unclear

TEHERAN, March 8, (R). — British elements of the sortium were concerned had been exporting quantities of oil with limits of world recession. There were also other of disagreement between and the consortium.

But there was nothing to indicate that the visit fully satisfied Iran, which has blamed Britain, in particular, over its dispute with Western oil companies operating here.

There was no statement on the outcome of the visit by Mr Callaghan or his Iranian counterpart, Mr Abbas Ali Khalatbari, who flew with the Shah to Pakistan yesterday.

British officials, however, said that since Mr Callaghan was not here on a specific mission such a statement was not necessary.

During his stay Mr Callaghan had talks with the Shah, Prime Minister Amir Abbas Hoveyda, Mr Khalatbari and other Iranian leaders.

Questioned about Anglo-Iranian relations, Mr Callaghan told a press conference that he would only echo what Mr Khalatbari told him at the end of their talks that the two countries' relations were "the best they have ever been."

But the foreign secretary appeared to side-step questions about the oil issue. A few days before Mr Callaghan's arrival the Shah, in an interview, warned the Western nations, particularly Britain, to review their policies or his country would act without taking into account their interests.

The interview was published in Europe, jointly produced by the London Times, Le Monde of Paris, Die Welt of West Germany and La Stampa of Italy. Mr Callaghan told his press conference that as far as British Petroleum and Shell, the

A.N.C. leader warns of Rhodesia bloodbath

LUSAKA, March 8, Bishop Abel Muzorewa of the external factor Rhodesian African Council (ANC) has warned Rhodesian Premier Ian Smith of a "bloodbath."

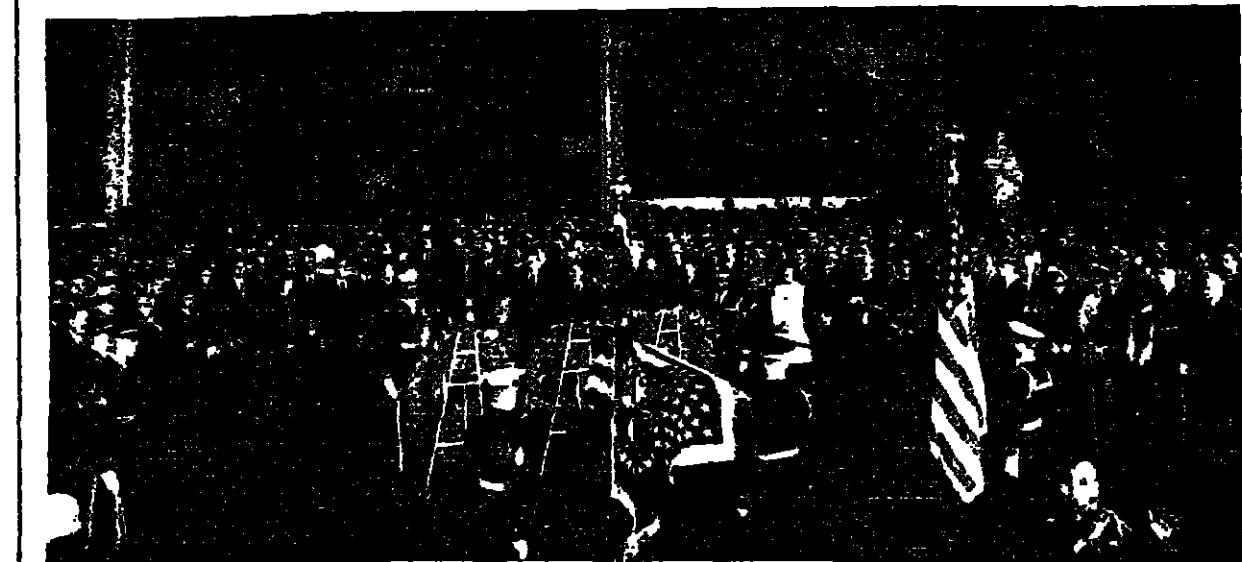
In an interview with a journalists Sunday to (Lourenco Marques) Bishop Muzorewa said: "I ask the whites to their arms to avoid a bloodbath."

Asked whether he seek military aid from and Cuba, Bishop said: "the ANC of (Rhodesia) reserves the call on any or all of untries to come to the liberation struggle."

He accused the United States and its NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) of refusing to help Liberation movement.

He also accused the United States of supporting Mr Smith's side in the struggle of innocent blacks.

He praised Mozambique last week to border with Rhodesia.



LAST TRIP. — The horse-drawn caisson (above) bearing the flag-draped coffin of former President Lyndon B. Johnson approaches the Capitol in Washington. The body lay in state in the Rotunda (below) before it was returned to Texas for burial at the LBJ Ranch. Mr. Johnson served 11 years in the House of Representatives and 12 years in the Senate, both of which meet in the Capitol, before becoming Vice President in 1961. In the latter post, he presided over the Senate until moving into the White House in November 1963. He retired to the Texas ranch home in January 1969.

Sterling, franc plunge in Europe

(Continued from page 1) sis with top officials, while the lira remained steady in light trading on foreign exchange markets.

Mr. Simon, who arrived last night from Cairo, saw Bank of Italy Governor Paolo Baffi for an hour this morning, and later lunched with Treasury Minister Emilio Colombo.

Mr. Simon, who arrived last night from Cairo, saw Bank of Italy Governor Paolo Baffi for an hour this morning, and later lunched with Treasury Minister Emilio Colombo.

Kuwait denies USSR loan report

(Continued from page 1) outside the USSR purely as a commercial proposition.

The deposit of Kuwaiti funds in Soviet banks, agreed during the Soviet finance officials' talks here, was on the same basis as Kuwait's investments in other countries, it added.

Sources said last week that Kuwait would place 10 million dinars (\$ 30 million) in the Soviet Foreign Trade Bank as a first step towards economic co-operation.

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